SOME

FRUITS

OF A

Tender Branch,

Sprung from the

Living Vine:

Being A

COLLECTION

Of Several

Sound and Godly LETTERS,

Written by that

Faithful Servant of God,

Benjamin Padley.

1691

WITH

Diverse Living Testimonies to that Innocent Life, in which he walked, and continued to the End of his Day.

London, Printed for *Tho. Northcott* in

BRITISH MUSEUM

This is my Teſtimony concerning my Dea Husband, Benjamin Padley, *wh departed this Life the 25th. of th 6th. Month,* 1687. *being in th 29th. Year of his Age.*

WHo the Lord hath been pleaſed to ſe parate from me, whom my Soul ha true Union with, and many ſwee Opportunities we had together and we have often rejoyced together, whe we did behold the Wonderful Kindneſs of ou God; and now the Lord hath been pleaſed t ſeparate him from me, and take him unto him ſelf, I can ſay of a Truth, he was a dear an loving Husband unto me, and a true Lover o all that feared the LORD; and it was tha which his Soul delighted in the Proſperity o the Truth, and would ſay many times, he could even ſpend his Time continually in waiting upon the Lord, and freely leave all outward things to go abroad to Anſwer the Will and Requirings of the Lord; and he was one that was not idle in that Work and Service, which the Lord called him to, but his great Care was, That he might be faithful in what the Lord required at his hand, and that he might neither be too forward nor too backward, but

o fulfil the Work of the Lord faithfully, and
is great desire was, that Friends would be
ery diligent in meeting together, and not
nly so, but that they would be diligent
nd watchful when they were met together,
o wait upon the LORD, and not be
lothful, but to consider for what end they
et together, that the Lord might be honour-
d by them, and that they might receive the
enefit and Comfort which they all do receive
hat is watchful and obedient; and his Mind
vas, as I may truly say, clearly weaned from
ff all Worldly Things, and set upon things
which is above, for he was freely given up
o the Will of the Lord, to his disposing, to
ispose of him, as he see good; for as he
id declare to me on his dying Bed, If the
ord have any further Work or Service for
e to do, I desire to be faithful, and if not,
am very well satisfied; and so the Lord hath
een pleased to take him unto himself, and
ow he hath received a Crown of Joy, and
hough I find it a great Exercise and Tryal to
art with such a dear Husband, and one whom
ny Soul with his and many dear Friends more
vere often refreshed together in the presence
f the Lord, but since it is his Will to call
im from me, I desire to be satisfied with the
Will of the Lord, and that I may not mur-
nur against the hand of the Lord, but be
willing to give him up, being well satisfied
hat my Loss is his great Gain, and even re-

turn Praiſes unto the Lord, who orders and diſpoſes of all things as he ſees good; and as *Job* ſaid, *The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away, bleſſed be the Name of the Lord*; for he alone it is that knows what is beſt for us and ſo I deſire to be ſatisfied with his Will for he alone doth work wonderfully, beyond the Expectation of either Man or Woman: for when I conſider how wonderfully he was pleaſed to carry my dear Husband thro' his great Exerciſe, and what Patience he bore it with, it cauſed me to bleſs the Lord for it: for he bore it with great Patience, and the Lord was pleaſed to raiſe up his Spirits wonderfully, to the refreſhing and ſatisfaction of my Soul, and many more. The day before he was taken out of the Body, ſeveral Neighbours and Friends came in, and he deſired his Neighbours to ſtay, and ſitting a pretty while to wait upon the Lord, he opened his Mouth in Exhortation to them to fear God and depart from Iniquity; and he ſpake many precious Words to them in declaration, and alſo went to Prayer, which, to ſee his Weakneſs, made us to admire, and it was to the admiration of them that were there preſent for it was the wonderful Work of our God for to all outward Appearance his Strength was almoſt ſpent, but the Lord was pleaſed to raiſe up his Spirits very wonderfully, but many of his Expreſſions cannot be remembred; but this he ſpoke, which is remembred

m glad, said he, *to see so many of your faces, bought I should not have seen so many of you I have done, being the Lord hath been pleased visit me with sickness, so that I am brought so ak, that I am not likely to continue many ys here, but I feel nothing but all is well*; d *when we were looking for help for him from m*, he said, *I have a Physitian the World knows t of*; and while he lay sick, when I had en weeping besides him, he would say, *O y dost thou so, thou must not do so, keep but to Truth, and fear not but all will be well*; and ould say at nights, *Go to bed and take thy t, and be not troubled about me*; And when iends came to see him, he would say, *My ar Love is with you, and remains with you all*: nd I know his dear Love was to all that ved the Truth, and it was that which his ul travelled for the prosperity of, and *Sions* lory; and the Lord was pleased to call him rth, into his work and service abroad, to sit Friends, and to bare his Testimony for e Lord; and his desire was, That he might ar it faithfully, and that he might be en- ed with Power from on high, and so speak the Spirit gave him Utterance; and the rd was pleased to endue him with a good derstanding and much knowledge, and of a nd delivery, so that the hearts of many re drawn near unto him, and he was drawn ar unto many, and many sweet Refresh- nts we had together, and many sweet Meet-

ings and Opportunities we had to the Refreſhment of our Souls, and many hearts were made glad, and my ſoul with his hath many a time been truly comforted together in the Lord; ſo that to part with ſuch a dear Husband, and one who I had much comfort in, I find it a hard thing to undergo, for he was a Man of great Service, and might have been if the Lord had ſeen good to have ſpared him; my Loſs is great, and many I do believe will find a Loſs of him beſides, but this is comfort to me, that the Lord was with him, and the Lord had drawn him off all worldly things, and ſurely had fitted him for himſelf, and now hath taken him out of this troubleſome World, and ſo he hath finiſhed his Courſe with Joy, and hath received the Crown which is laid up in ſtore for all the faithful ones; for as *Paul* ſaid, *The Crown of Righteouſneſs he alone ſhall wear, that faithful to the end do perſevere*; and I know it was his great deſire that he might walk ſo as to obtain that Crown, and I am ſatisfied the Lord hath anſwered his deſire; many of his ſweet words and expreſſions which he ſpake, cannot be remembred, which is a trouble to me that they were not taken notice of, but my Exerciſe being very great, That I could not remember many of them, and being the Lord hath been pleaſed to ſtrip me of him, which was the greateſt outward Comfort and Support that I had, I deſire that I may be wit

ling to ſubmit to the Will of the Lord, and that my Will may ſubmit to his Will, and that I may not offend him; for as it is ſaid, *If ye love any thing more than me, ye are not worthy of me*; ſo he is able to make up all our Loſſes, as we ſtand faithful to him, and though my Loſs be great, in parting with ſuch a dear Husband, yet I firmly believe his Gain is great, and he is at reſt from all the Troubles and Incumbrances of this World, for many are the Tryals and Exerciſes that we meet with here in this troublesome World, and therefore it is my great deſire that I may be preſerved thro' them all, and that the Lord alone may ſtay and anchor my Soul, that in all Tryals and Exerciſes, I may look unto him for help and wiſdom, to walk as becomes his Truth, and to order all things to his Glory, and that I may wait for Council from him, to be ordered and guided by him alone, and ſo return him the Praiſes and the Honour, who alone is worthy of all Honour and Glory, for ever and evermore.

Northcave, the 28*th*. of the 10*th*. Month, 1687.

Suſanna Padley.

A Short Account of B. P. *his Expreſſions in the time of his Weakneſs, taken in writing from his Wifes own Mouth*, &c.

HE took his ſickneſs in the 17th of the 6th Month, 1687, and continued till the 25

of the ſame, having long before had a ſence upon his ſpirit, that his time in this world might not be long, often declaring the ſame to his Dear Wife; and the day after he took his illneſs, he ſpoke as Concerning his two Children, on this wiſe, That the Lord would preſerve and keep them, and that they might if they lived, live to Honour his Name; or otherwiſe, if it might ſeem good in his ſight that they might be taken away in their Childhood before ſin was too much rooted in them: On that day or the day following ſeveral of his Neighbours came to viſit him, his Dear Wife being by, he ſaid, It is well for them that can ſay on their dying beds, their ſins and iniquities are blotted out. At another time a friend coming into ſee him, he ſaid; my Dear Love is to thee, and to all friends; and I deſire you may be watchful and diligent in attending Meetings, often declaring his great Love to Friends. At another time he ſaid, If the Lord have any further work for me to do, I deſire I may be found faithful, and if not I am well ſatisfied in his will. And afterward, the pain and ſickneſs being very ſharp upon him, he ſaid, O Lord, I pray thee lay no more upon thy ſervant, then thou gives him patience to bare; and I pray thee that thy afflictions may be mixt with mercy. His Wife weeping, being under very great Exerciſe becauſe of his Affliction, he ſaid unto her, O why do'ſt thou weep, thou muſt not do ſo,

for keep but to the Truth, and fear not but all will be well. And the very day before he dyed, he got up in the forenoon, and several friends, as also Neighbours and Relations came in to see him, and he being under a deep sence of Gods love unto his Soul, begun to declare amongst them, but few of his words is remembred, but there having been some words given out by some of the worlds people where he lived, while he was in the work and service of the Lord, abroad visiting Gods Heritage, that he had Mony for Preaching, therefore he spoke on this manner: It is not for any outward thing we Travel, neither is that by us lookt at, nor any mans Silver, or Gold, sought or coveted after, but it's for the Gaining of Souls; for said he, we have suffered the loss of our goods, scoffings, and scornings, and imprisonment, so that it may appear, it hath not been the looking at any benefit of any Mans Goods, or Estates, that hath been in our eye, but for performing the will of the Lord, and now it hath pleased him to visit me with great weakness, so that I am not like to continue many days here; but I am well satisfied, and whether they will hear, or forbear, I shall be clear in the day of the Lord; and although his weakness was very great, and even to the Eye of outward reason as a spent Man, yet he was helped to his Mees, and was never heard to be more powerful in prayer, which was for all from the King

upon his Throne, even to the beggar upon the dunghill, to the Admiration and Aſtoniſhment of the Beholders; and after that few words proceeded from him, but weakned very faſt, and the next day being 25th of the ſixth Month 1687. he finiſhed, and hath left a good Savour behind him, and the Righteous ſurely ſhall be had in everlaſting remembrance, although the Memory of the wicked ſhall rott.

Elizabeth Leaper, *Her Teſtimony concerning* Benjamin Padley, *who dyed the 25th of the 6th Month*, 1687.

MY Teſtimony Concerning this my dear Friend *B. P.* is as followeth, that he was a Man whom the Lord had endued with true Wiſdom, as alſo a ſpirit of true diſcerning, and therein did he in his day act for the Lord, and for his Truth and People, and freely gave himſelf up with his whole ſubſtance to ſpend, and be ſpent. Oh the remembrance of this my Friend, is very precious unto me, and I am made many times to bleſs the Lord, and to praiſe the name of *Jacobs* God, in that he hath made me very ſenſible, he had fitted and prepared him, and made him a fit veſſel for his Maſters uſe, who called him into his vineyard; and I am made to ſay, ſurely he was a faithful Labourer

therein, therefore doth my Soul believe, he hath received his reward even a Crown of Glory, which can never be taken from him, yet I cannot but many times even mourn becauſe of the want I with many more, feels of him, whom the Lord raiſed up, to be as an inſtrument in his hand many a time to ſpeak a word in due ſeaſon unto me, when under great exerciſes, and beſetments many ways; and not only ſo, but he could read my condition, and was made willing to bare a part of my burthen; yet my ſorrow is not as thoſe who ſorrow without hope, being fully ſatisfied, he had kept the faith, finiſhed his courſe, and laid down his head in peace with the Lord, where all ſighing, and tears of ſorrow comes to be wiped away; ſo that although our loſs, and the want of him be great, yet ſurely its his gain, and in this ſhall my ſoul, and ſpirit be comforted. I well remember when the Lord was pleaſed to raiſe a Travel in my ſoul for *Sions* proſperity, and laid a conſtraint on me, to caſt in my mite into his Treaſury amongſt my Brethren and Siſters, at that very time was he made inſtrumental, to the helping me forward, and after ſometime, it was laid on me; with my dear Siſter and Companion *Mary Froſt*, to viſit Friends in *Cumberland*, and laying it before him, being under a True Sence of our own weakneſs, youth and tenderneſs, Oh! How he encouraged us, ſaying, Travel on in your innocen-

cy, and in a ſence of your own weakneſs without the Lord, and I do believe he will be with you, and make your journey proſperous; which time was the laſt time we ſee his face, his delight was to take the weaklings by the hand, and to encourage the good in all wherever it appeared, for his care over the Flock of Chriſt was great; and I have heard him often ſay, where he ſaw a backwardneſs or ſlackneſs in meeting together to wait upon the Lord; Oh how it wounded, and grieved his ſpirit within him! often ſtirring Friends up to diligence, and faithfulneſs in ſerving God. Oh the Remembrance of his innocency! together with the Lamb-like Nature, which mine eyes beheld to appear in him is very pleaſant unto me; and the many ſweet and comfortable expreſſions which dropped like Honey from his Lips unto my Soul, when under great diſtreſs, the Conſideration of it breaks my Heart, and Melts my Spirit into Tenderneſs before the Lord! Oh the ſweet Councel my Soul received from him, when in a mournful ſtate, it was even as marrow to my bones, and as ſtrength unto my ſinews; ſo that I have been made to bleſs the Lord, that ever it was my Lot to ſee his Face, and although it was not ordered ſo to be for me, to ſee him in the time of his weakneſs, being many Miles diſtant, as alſo under weakneſs of body, yet at the firſt hearing of his ſickneſs, I was made ſenſible he might be taken

away, which at the firſt came very nigh me, but after ſometime I was made to ſay, Lord thou has now fitted him for thy Kingdom, therefore, *Bleſſed are the dead which die in the Lord, for they do Reſt from their Labour, and their works do follow them*; and ſurely thou art taking the Righteous away from the evil to come, ſo being fully ſatisfied of his well being, as alſo hearing the report of ſome good friends, who were with him near the time he finiſhed of his comfortable end: I dare not repine, as believing his life, was hid with Chriſt in God, and I do feel this time, as at many other times fervent breathings in my heart, and a cry run through my Soul, unto the Lord, that he will ſtill raiſe up many more to bare a faithful Teſtimony to his Name and Truth, even as I do believe this my friend did in his young and tender years, and it's my full belief he's now rejoycing amongſt the valiants of *Iſrael* who hath not only proved Conquerors, but more than Conquerors; ſo what ſhall I ſay more, but even leave all to the diſpoſing of him, whoſe mercys are over all the works of his hands, with True breathings unto the Lord, not only for my own Soul, but for all his whole flock, and Family, that's left behind every where, that we may ſo ſpend the reſidue of our time, even as I do believe this my Friend of whom I am ſpeaking did, that ſo the reward of the Righteous we may all receive, when time on this ſide the grave

ſhall be no more. So unto him who hath been our preſervation unto this day, and is able to make up all our wants, and raiſe up unto himſelf many faithful, and living witneſſes, doth my Soul return Glory and Honour with humble, and holy thankſgivings, having cleared my ſelf, and eaſed my ſpirit, and ſo remains a Traveller for *Sions* proſperity, and a well wiſher to all.

Elizabeth Leaper.

DEar *Benjamin Padley* was one of the Sons of *William* and *Elizabeth Padley* of *Northcave*, in the *Eaſtriding* of *Yorkſhire*, who in former days (with many others, in whom true deſires towards God were begotten) was travelling and ſeeking the Kingdom in Forms and Obſervations, zealouſly following them that cryed, Lo here, and lo there, in whom the true Birth being not ſatisfied with any empty huſk, when it pleaſed the Lord in his great Mercy to cauſe his day to dawn, and to viſit a Remnant that ſate mourning in darkneſs with the Manifeſtation of his everlaſting Light, and to ſend forth faithful Witneſſes and Meſſengers of the Goſpel of Peace and Reconciliation in Chriſt Jeſus, the Light of the World, and the only way to the Father. Then I ſay the ſaid *William* and *Elizabeth* his Wife, were the firſt (in theſe parts, that received the ſaid Meſſengers

and

and their Teſtimony, and became faithful Followers of him, whom the Father hath ſent to gather in his ſcattered flock, to wait for his teaching, and to worſhip him in Spirit and Truth, and through much Tribulation, in Patience they endured to the end, and did not deny him before Men for any Suffering, as, Impriſonment, ſpoyling of Goods, *&c.* with the latter whereof, more eſpecially the Widow, and *Samuel* their eldeſt Son, were tryed by Means of *Thomas Forge* a prophane Prieſt, who was much retained in *Williams* days, but after his death break forth in great Rage, and Cruelty againſt the Widow and Fatherleſs, but moſt eſpecially after *Elizabeths* death, againſt the ſaid *Samuel*, who, by means of the ſaid Prieſt, and his adherents, ſuffered twice 20 *l.* fine for Friends meeting in his houſe to worſhip God, which (with other ſufferings) when he had endured by wicked men for his love to God and his Truth, and People, he was taken away in peace out of the World, and his next brother *William* ſtood up in his place in the ſame Teſtimony, who met with the like uſage from the ſame wicked prieſt, who ſhut him up in Priſon, where he remained till the death of his ſaid Adverſary, and not long after he being taken out of the World alſo, this dear *Benjamin* came in to the place, where his Parents had finiſhed their courſe. And in deep Humility, and Zeal towards God, and

fervent love to him, and to all that walked in the Truth, he did continue a conſiderable time before his mouth was opened to bare a Teſtimony of the everlaſting Truth of God, in the Aſſemblies of his People, and after he was raiſed in the Power of Truth to bare a Teſtimony of it. I do verily believe he did not go before the motion of Life, nor ſtretch beyond it, nor ſpeak of what he lived not in, neither did he aſpire into high Notions, nor ſeek to illuſtrate his Teſtimony with high words and expreſſions, but ſound, plain, and weighty his declaration was, in the demonſtration of the ſpirit & power of *God*, which reached the ſeed; and when he received the aboundings of the heavenly gift, that in the overflowings thereof he could Miniſter, and offer the living Sacrifice on the Spiritual Altar, and find acceptance; yet he grew not rich and full, nor wiſe in his own conceit, but was kept low and humble, in a deep ſence of the dayly need, ſtill to wait on God, for the renewings of his mercys, and the freſh openings of the ſprings of life, and love from him to help forward in the Spiritual Travel, and to perſevere to the end: and hereunto he did much exhort, and ſtir up friends where he came, and to conſtancy in meetings, and to watchful diligence therein, that all might come dayly to receive, and truly to enjoy that, wherein the True bleſſedneſs is. He ſought not worldly riches (tho he was a man

not ſlothful in buſineſs, but in duſtrious); yet above all, ſeeking the Kingdom of GOD, and the Righteouſneſs thereof, and the Lord gave him his hearts deſire, and withheld not from him, what his Soul Travelled for, for he helped him on his way to the end, and Miniſtred living Conſolation to his Soul, when all viſible things ceaſed to be any more to him. And now his courſe is finiſhed, and his work is done, and his reward is everlaſting, where none can add thereto, nor take therefrom; and being ſenſible of this, I can Truely Teſtify that I do not write theſe things in any vain Oſtentation, to ſet up the Name of a Creature, but for the ſakes of thoſe that yet remain; That all may be ſtirred up (whom the Lord hath viſited with the like mercy) in the day of their viſitation, to give all diligence to make their Calling and Election ſure, ſeeing none of us knows at what time our end may be; but that which is moſt weighty upon my Spirit, whereby I have been drawn to bring in this Teſtimony, is to provoke, and ſtir up all the Children of the Lords People, every where to be True followers of their parents in the Lords way in every thing that is good. O the joy, and comfort to the Souls of all that Love the Lord, to behold the Children of Faithful parents that Truely loved, and feared the Lord, now walking in the ſame way, and ſtriving for the ſame immortal Crown! and Oh the grief, and ſor-

row of heart to be Children of Good parents, looſe and prophane! Or to turn aſide from the way of the Lord, wherein they have been inſtructed! Oh great will be the Condemnation of all ſuch, if they do not ſpeedily return: and therefore my earneſt deſire, and Travel is, that my (Children) and all the Children of the Lords faithful ſervants, and people great and ſmall may be hereby Admoniſhed, and put in Remembrance, by the good Example of this young Man, and his Brethren, whoſe Memorial is bleſſed, who Truely followed their good parents, in faithfulneſs to God; in doing and ſuffering what the Lord required of them; and the Eternal God of power, who helped their parents through all he call'd them to, did not fail theſe young Men their Children, but was their helper to the end, and I believe is, and ever will be a ſure Rock to all that chuſe, and abide in his way from Generation to Generation: And I dearly beſeech all young people, Children of the Lords ſervants, not to count it enough to get, and Comprehend into Notion, what ye have heard from your parents or others, and ſo to follow them only in the outward form, and profeſſion of Truth. Oh but wait in the Light to feel the Spirit and power of God, to work in you to judge, work out, and Crucify the worlds Nature in you, and to renew you in your hearts and ſpirits, according to his Holy and Heavenly will, that ſo

of him who certainly knows the hearts of all, ye may be owned and approved; which that all the called of the Lord, both Old and Young, may truly attain unto, is the earneſt deſire and ſpiritual travel of your Brother and Companion, in that which abides for ever,

Sebaſtian Ellythorpe.

THis Teſtimony remaineth in my heart, and hath been as a Concern upon my Spirit, many days concerning the Life and Death of my dear Friend *Benjamin Padley*; for he was one that the Lord did bleſs and preſerve in great weakneſs, when he was in his tenderneſs, and in his young years, and ſeeking after the Knowledge of the bleſſed Truth, as it is in *Jeſus*, and when he was weeping on his way, and ſeeking the Lord, inquiring the way to *Sion*, having his face thitherward, who travelled in pain, as a Woman to be delivered, and had a longing deſire after the Lord God, who could not be ſatisfied until he had met with him whom his ſoul loved, and nothing would comfort him ſhort of the Enjoyment of the preſence of the Lord; neither did he regard the Reproaches, but patiently endured the Croſs, and deſpiſed the Shame. And all for that Joy that was ſet before him, which the Lord had given him a ſence and a feeling of in his young days, and in the Lords due and appointed time he did

deliver him, from under all that which was as a Burthen unto him, as that *Philistian* Nature that was an Enemy unto *Israel*, that would be casting stones into their Wells, and would be damming up the precious springs of divine Life; these things he knew and met with in his way, but still his dependency was upon Christ the Beloved of his Soul, who brought him out of the Wilderness, and over the Red Sea, and over *Jordan*, and through the Ministration of Death and Condemnation, which all must pass through before they come into Life and Peace with God, and to be possessed of that Inheritance of Life and Salvation, Peace and Rest in Christ, that *Canaan* was a Figure of promised to *Abraham* and his Seed for ever, of whose Off-spring and Race in those days are all the Faithful, who is willing to leave their Fathers House, and all their Kindred, and all that is near and dear unto them, among whom was this faithful Man, who loved not his Life unto Death, that he might save his Life unto Eternity; this was before him, and this was in *Moses*'s eye above *Ægypts* Glory; this was in *Abrahams* eye above his Native Country, and above his Fathers House, because they all had an eye unto the Recompence of Reward, among whom was this faithful Man, after that he had turned his back upon all the World and *Ægypts* Glory, he grew valiant for the Truth, and bore a living Testimony against the Abomi-

nations, and all the Pride and Superſtition and Idolatry thereof, the ſence whereof ſtill remaineth, and doth live with me, though he be removed from us, ſtill the remembrance of him is Chronocled and Engraven in our hearts, that it cannot eaſily be forgotten, nor razed out of our Remembrance; the many ſweet and living Teſtimonies that were given forth, and that ran through him in the precious Extendings of Life, and ſweet Viſitations, wherewithal the Lord was pleaſed to viſit him, and to make him a Partaker of amongſt the People of God, of which I was an Eye and Ear-Witneſs, and a partaker with him, both in the time of the Miniſtration of Death, and in the time of the Miniſtration of Life and Salvation, and in his Exerciſes both ſpiritual and temporal; but in all he was preſerved in the meek and quiet ſpirit of the Lamb, holding faſt his Integrity in the ancient power of God, and in the word of his patience, who never failed him nor none of his faithful Children, in the day of Tryal, nor hour of Temptation, though they be great, and the troubles of the Righteous many, yet the Lord is able to deliver out of them all, as he hath done this my dear Friend, where all ſighing and ſorrow doth fly away; and where all tears is wiped away, and all ſorrows and pains cometh to an end, and the troubler ceaſes troubling, and the ſcorner ceaſes from ſcorning,

and

and the troubler of *Iſrael* doth not appear any more; and this is our Joy and our Comfort, that which maketh up our Loſs in parting with ſo dear a Friend as he was in his day, which was but ſhort, yet glorious; for he was taken away in the flower of his age, and in the ſtrength of his youth, I mean every way, both bodily and ſpiritually; for he had overcome the wicked one, and the Word of God did abide in him, and his preſence did fill him, until his Cup did overflow many times, to the watering of the Heritage of God; and now this is my deſire, That all to whom this may come, may be Followers of Chriſt in his footſteps, and according to his and many others that was holy Examples in their days of humility and ſelf-denying, and patience, and long ſuffering, and meekneſs, and Brotherly kindneſs and charity, ſuffering all things, and bearing all things, for the Name of *Jeſus*, and for the Word of God, as he was given up to do, and now is entred into Glory, where he *reſts from his Labours, and his Works do follow him, and his Reward is with him*; for thus ſaith the Spirit, *Bleſſed is the dead which dye in the Lord, for they reſt from their Labours, and their Works do follow them*; and the Name of the Righteous ſhall be had in everlaſting remembrance, and ſhall be bleſſed among the Righteous, but the Name of the Wicked ſhall rot.

Theſe few Lines opened in my heart, concerning my dear Friend, whoſe Life was bleſſed, and latter End Peace. Now it is time to conclude, and recommend this with the reſt of Friends Teſtimonies to the ſerious Readers, to whom this may come, to the help and encouragement of them that are in Afflictions, that they they may hold out to the end and be ſaved.

John Richardſon.

A Copy of a Letter *ſent to his Wife.*

Dear Love,

THE Salutation of my endeared Love reacheth unto thee with my Children, and I cannot but deſire of the Lord, That he would preſerve you, and keep you in his fear from day to day, and give thee Wiſdom and Underſtanding to order thy Family in his fear and dread, and to be cheerful, and truſt in the Lord, and he will not fail thee, I am ſatisfied; for bleſſed be the Name of the God of Heaven, his Preſence and Power is ſtill with us, and his Arm doth ſtill ſurround us, that we are carryed on with cheerfulneſs, and freely given up to follow the Lord whitherſoever he is pleaſed to lead us. So, my Dear, I dearly deſire thee, be not troubled, nor any way caſt down in thy mind becauſe of my Abſence; though things

may go contrary to thy desire and expectation, yet, my Dear, be incouraged, and give up to the Lord, and fear him, and doubt not but all things will work together for thy good. So unto the Lord do I commit thee, with my Children and Family, with my own Soul, who I desire to preserve and keep us to his own Praise and Glory, who alone is worthy over all for ever. So my Dear, I desire thee to remember my dear Love to all our Friends in general, who is very dear unto me, when I remember them, especially those that are faithful. So my dear Love, with my dear Companion *John Richardson*, salutes you all, and bid you all farewel. We are now at *Rousby*, and doth intend for *Whitby*, and so toward *Burlington*, if the Lord permit. So with my dear Love to thee, I remain thy dear and faithful affectionate Friend and Husband,

From *Rousby* 16*th.* of 8*th.* Month, 1686.

Benjamin Padley,

Another Copy of a Letter *sent to his Wife.*

My Dear,

THe Salutation of my endeared Love at this time, with many other times, doth reach unto thee, as also to my Dear Children; and you are often in my Remembrance; and my Soul is many times bowed down, and my

Spirit poured forth in Supplication before, and in the preſence of my God and yours; that you may be preſerved in holy fear and dread, and that he may give thee Wiſdom, and underſtanding, and ſtrength, and ability, to order thy Children, and to nurture them in the Fear of the Lord, and keep them in Subjection as much as in thee Lyes; and ſtand in the Dominion of Truth, over them and thy ſervants; and wait for Wiſdom, and Councel from the Lord to guide, and order thee in all things, that thee art concerned in. And my dear, be not too careful in driving on thy buſineſs too eagerly, and keep thy hands off as much as thou poſſibly canſt, thou knowing thy own unfitneſs, and the weakneſs of thy Conſtitution; and although things may ſometimes, not go ſo well on as thou wouldſt have them, yet I would have thee be careful, that thou letteſt not thy mind out to fret, and grieve at them, but ſtand in the Counſel of God, that he may give thee directions to order all things aright, and to keep out of extreams on every hand: But let thy Moderation appear in all things; and let a moderate care be had in all things, that nothing be willfully loſt or waſted. And ſo unto the Lord, who is only able to preſerve, and proſper thee in all things, do I commit thee with the reſt of my family; and my hope, and confidence, and whole belief is ſtedfaſt in him, as ever that as we do keep faithful

to the Lord, and his Truth, and desires to be found in that, and to abide in that, which will bring Honour to his Name: The Lord will multiply his blessings upon us, and we shall be as Monuments of his Mercy, and his presence will be with us, and his provident hand will be seen and felt, in the ordering of us in all things to his glory, and to our mutual Joy and Comfort: And blessed be his great and Mighty NAME, that hath not been wanting to me since I was called from thee; but his presence I have, and do enjoy from day to day, unto this very day; and his counsel he hath not hidden from me, in those things which he hath concerned me in, but his provident hand hath greatly appeared to me, in ordering of me in my Journey, and answering my desire greatly beyond my Expectation; for I have met with a Companion four or five days ago, and I hope we are like to continue together a pretty while longer, our minds being both inclined one way, before we did know any thing one of another; and I hope, and am satisfied, that it will be good for me, for the Lord is felt, and witnessed to be with us in our Spiritual Exercise, to the ordering of us in his fear and wisdom; and many sweet and precious Opportunities has he given us, to the uniting us to himself, and one unto another, and hath drawn us into a Spiritual Acquaintance and Society one with another, unto whom my Soul

gives

gives Glory and Honour, who is alone worthy for ever and ever. I desire thee remember my dear Love to all our Friends in general, and let me have two or three Lines from thee, by some of our Friends that goes to the yearly Meeting at *York*, to know how it is with thee; for I hope I may get thither, and shall be glad to hear that it is well with thee; so desiring this may find thee with thy Children in good health, as through the Lords Mercy I am at present; and in the Sense of the Lords Goodness toward us, and his Care over us, I do still remain, and in that dear and unfeigned Love, which length of Miles, or distance of place cannot separate, do I dearly salute thee, and bid thee farewel, and doth remain in the unchangeable Truth, thy truly loving Husband,

From *Hansworth Woodhouse* near *Sheffield* 28th. of 3d. Month, 1687.

Benjamin Padley.

A Copy of a Letter *sent to a Brother of his in* America.

Dear Brother,

I Dearly salute thee in the Fear of the Lord, in which I desire we may both be preserved all the days of our appointed time. After my dear love presented unto thee, hoping these will find thee in good health, as I am at present, blessed be the Lord; and therefore

I desire thee to sink down into Gods pure fear, and let his pure dread, and Holy Awe be continually upon thy heart, and that will guide thee in the path of Righteousness, and order thee aright in all things; it will be as a Cloud by day as and of a Pillar fire by night to lead thee: Thou knows in the days of our Childhood, when we were left without Father and Mother, the *Lord* took care of us, and provided well for us, that we have not suffered want nor hardships, as many Children have done; and when thou went first over into that Country, in which thou now art, thou wast then in a Sence of thy own weakness and littleness, and wast as it were reconciled unto the Will of God; and when thou wast in this State, then thou wast safe, and the *Lord* prospered thee in all thy undertakings, and many People became thy Friends, and thou didst get the love of many; but now I fear thou hast lost the feeling of that which was then thy preservation, and now thou art lifted up in thy prosperity, and so forgets the *Lord* that made thee, and hath given thee Breath and Being; and so in Bowels of love to thy Soul, do I write this to thee, and not for any ill will I bear to thee; the *Lord* knows my Heart; but that thou might come to the Consideration of these things, and for time to come, let them be amended, or else assuredly the hand of the Just GOD will be

for ever: ſo I dare not but warn thee in the Fear of the *Lord*; and whether thou wilt hear, or forbear, I ſhall be clear concerning thee; for I will aſſure thee I have beſought the *Lord* with Tears many times concerning thee, and this I am perſwaded through Gods mercy, that his love is ſtill towards thee, and he ſtill waits to be gracious unto thee, and to ſhew mercy unto thee, if thou wilt return unto him: therefore I deſire thee in bowels of love to thy Soul, do thou hearken to his voice, and return to him with thy whole Heart and Soul, and in Gods Fear ſit down under his righteous judgments, and wait in patience until he is pleaſed to appear, and reveal himſelf unto thee; and he will throw down the mountains of iniquity, and cauſe the Hills of Tranſgreſſion to fall before him; he will make the Crooked ways ſtraight, and the rough places plane; he will throw down the partition, which the enemy hath built betwixt him and thy ſoul; and he will make room for himſelf to dwell, and make his abode with thee: and ſo I deſire that thou and I, and all that makes mention of the Name of the *Lord*, may depart from evil: for thus ſaith the *Lord*, Let all that makes mention of my Name depart from evil. And therefore it is a weighty thing, and we have great need to eye the *Lord* in all things, and ſtand continually in his Councel, that he may be our leader, and our guide to the end of our days; and therefore let us

with one accord Humble our Souls before the GOD of HEAVEN, and ſit in the duſt, and with rended hearts cauſe our Crys to pierce through the Heavens, and aſcend up to him that ſits upon the Throne of Glory, and he will hear our Crys, and anſwer the deſires of our Souls, if in the fervency of our hearts we pray unto him: and ſo I deſire that we may be preſerved in the fear of the Lord; and therefore in reſignation to the Will of God, do I commit my Soul with thine, and the Souls of all our Brethren and Siſters, and all our dear and near Relations every where; and the Lord preſerve us, and the Lord keep us and protect us, and guide us continually in his pure Fear and holy Awe, that that may be the ſtay of all our minds unto the end of our appointed time, that the God of Heaven, may be our Portion, and the Lot of our Inheritance, that in the end of our days we may lay down our heads in peace, where none can make us afraid, and where our Bread for ever may be ſure, and our Water never failing, that we may Exalt the Name of the Lord in the Land of the Living, and return living Praiſes, and everlaſting Thankſgiving unto his Glorious Name: for worthy is he over all to be praiſed and honoured, everlaſtingly above all, for ever and for evermore. So no more, but my dear Love to thee, and Good Will toward all Men; I reſt

and remain thy dear Loving Brother, and eternal Lover of thy Souls Welfare,

North Frodingham in Houlderneſs in Yorkshire, 20th. of 3d. Month, 1678.

Benjamin Padley.

Another Copy of a Letter *ſent to a Brother of his in* America.

Endeared Brother,

OH feel the Bowels of Enlarged Love, which the Lord God Almighty, hath opened in me towards thee; and hath laid it weightily upon me to viſit thee with a tender viſitation of love; and alſo to lay open ſome of the ſnares and ſtratagems of the Enemy, whereby he kept me in bondage many Months, and ſome Years: But the Lord in his tender mercy, and infinite compaſſion, hath redeemed me out of them all; and hath ſet me free, to worſhip him in ſpirit, and in Truth; unto whom my ſoul doth at this time, and for ever deſire to return everlaſting glory, and endleſs praiſes and thankſgiving, who alone over all is worthy, for ever and ever: For after he was pleaſed in his endleſs mercy to bring me into the Wilderneſs, into a place of want, into a bewildred ſtate, into a wantfull ſtate, and into a ſenſe of the Neceſſity I had of ſeeking after a Saviour; the Enemy,

through hearkening to his deceitful voice; kept me long wandring here before I could get thorow, or arrive within the River-banks of *Canaan*; yet can I truly say, the *Lord* brought me not hither to ſtarve me, but to try me, for he never left me nor forſook me; but he dayly purſued me with mercy, and followed me with his loving kindneſs, he fed me with the Manna from Heaven, and cauſed me to drink of the Rock that followed me, which Rock was a ſhelter unto me, and that Rock was Chriſt, which dayly begot a longing deſire in me of being redeemed out of that bewildred ſtate, and of coming to the full enjoyment of that living refreſhment, which my Soul at times and ſeaſons was made partaker of; for truly I have many times felt ſuch living refreſhments from the hand of the *Lord*, both when I have been amongſt the Aſſemblies of Gods People, and alſo when alone in ſecret Places, when my heart hath been kept low in his fear, and when in the ſincerity of my Soul I have waited upon him, in a true Reſignation to his Will, that my Soul as it were, hath been overjoyed; and then whilſt I have been thus pleaſing my ſelf with thoſe Joys, and take a Rejoycing in thoſe Refreſhments, then hath the Enemy com'd in, with thoſe Perſwaſions, and ſaid, Thou art now come to the full Enjoyment of thy deſire; thou art now come to arrive within the Bleſſed Land, for which thou ſo earneſtly tra-

velled for; and thou may now take up a reſt here, for thou need never fear of being deprived of theſe Enjoyments, or of being driven back out of the Land wherein thou art arrived; yea, theſe and many more ſtumbling Blocks, hath the Enemy caſt before me, whilſt I was in this Bleſſed Exerciſe, and through lending an Ear and hearkening to his deceitful Voice, in taking up a falſe Reſt, which the Lord hath never ordained for me; I have been led backward into the Wilderneſs, and the Veil hath again been brought over me, and the thick Clouds of Darkneſs hath covered me, and the Mercies of the Lord hath been withdrawn from me, and he hath as it were for a Seaſon, hid his Face from me; ſo that I have ſometimes been ready to ſay, Surely this is *Ægypts* Darkneſs, and to take up a Lamentation, for want of the enjoyment of his preſence, which I did enjoy whilſt I was obedient to him, and in the deep ſence of theſe my Wants, and of the neceſſity of the ſaving Power, and Salvation of the Lord God Almighty, hath my Soul been bowed down, under great Weights and Burthens, beſeeching him, that he would again appear, and rend away the Veils, and take off all Coverings, and let me feel of his wonted Goodneſs, and of the freſh Incomes of his Love and Mercy, which formerly I had been partaker of; for in the ſence of theſe Wants, hath my Soul, with *David*,

been

been ready to ſay, *Lord haſt thou forgotten to be gracious, wilt thou be favourable no more?* O then did he Anſwer me, and ſay, *My hand is not ſhortned at all that I cannot ſave, neither is my ear heavy that it cannot hear, but thy Sins hath ſeparated betwixt thee and me*; through hearkening and lending an ear to the Enemy, in taking up a polluted Reſt; therefore turn from the evil of thy ways, and I will ſtill have Compaſſion on thee, and appear to ſave in all Troubles, and carry thee thorow all thy Exerciſes and Tryals, which I will ſuffer to come upon thee, and ſet thee as a Pillar in my Houſe that ſhall never be removed; O then his Words were ſtrength to my ſoul, and more deſired by me than my neceſſary Food; and now can I truly ſay the Lord is become my chiefeſt delight, and the object of mine eye; he is the God of my Salvation, therefore will I truſt in him, and not be afraid; though he was angry with me, his anger is turned away; though in a little wrath he hid his face from me, yet with everlaſting loving kindneſs he will have Mercy on me: And now the Lord having brought me out of the Wilderneſs, out of a Place of Want, into a Land of Plenty, and given me to drink of the River of his pleaſure, which is ſet open and freely tendred to all that will come; he hath taught me not to ſit at eaſe, and take up a Reſt as the Enemy would have perſwaded me;

for though the Enemies be ſubdued that were within the Borders, and that hindred me from arriving within the Bleſſed Land; yet GOD hath ſhewed me there are yet many Enemies within the Land, which if there be not a continual Watch kept, will come ſuddenly upon me, and drive me out: This is the *Philiſtine* Nature, which will dam up the Wells of *Jacob*, which will ſtop the Paſſage of the Fountain of Life from running into my Soul; there are the Pleaſures of the World, and the Cares of this Life, and all vain Traditions, and Cuſtoms of Men; which muſt be forſaken; and Sufferings both of Body, and ſpoyling of Goods, Scoffings, and Scornings, Revilings, and evil Entreatings, which they that will live godly in Chriſt Jeſus, muſt endure: And now the Lord having ſet before me Life and Death, I will rather chuſe to ſuffer affliction with the People of God, than to enjoy the Pleaſures of Sin for a Seaſon; for when I lay wallowing in my Blood, and nothing but Wounds and putrifying Sores, and when the *Prieſt* and the *Levite* paſſed by, and regarded me not, nor none could ſpeak a word of Peace to my Soul, O he was the good *Samaritan!* Who took me up, and had Compaſſion on me; he was the skilful Phyſitian, who knew my Infirmity, and poured forth Balm from *Gilead* upon all my Wounds, and healed me of mine Infirmities; O therefore hath he engaged me to love him!

him! and to give up all for him, and to follow him thorow the Loſs of all things; yea, to give up my Life for his ſake, if he ſhould require it at my hand, and it is but all what I owe unto him, it is but the ſacrifice of a reaſonable Service, and all nothing in compariſon of what he hath done for my ſoul, and I deſire with all my Heart and Soul, that I may for ever be kept and preſerved in this holy Reſolution, that I may count nothing too dear to part with for the *Lords* ſake, who is worthy over all to be worſhipped, ſerved and obeyed, praiſed, glorified, honoured and exalted, of me, and of all that have taſted of his Mercy, and knows how good he is, both now, for ever, and for evermore.

And now dear Brother, the *Lord* laid this weightily upon me, to lay open before thee (if happily thou not being fallen into theſe ſnares, might be preſerved out of them, or if fallen into them, that thou might ſee how to be redeemed out of them again); and therefore I entreat thee, as one having Charge of thy ſoul, that thou ſlight not the day of thy Viſitation until it be overpaſt, but while it is called to day, hearken, and turn not away thine Ear from the Counſel of the *Lord*, nor harden not thine heart againſt Inſtructions, nor caſt not his Reproofs behind thy back, leſt thou provoke the Juſt God to anger, and cauſe him to withdraw his good [illegible] from thee; for of a Truth God will

not be mocked, but he ſaid I will be glorified in all that draw near me; And they that make a profeſſion of him in Words, but in Works deny him, he will glorifie himſelf in deſtroying of them, as he did *Nadab* and *Abihu*, who offered a ſtrange Fire unto him; for he hath ſaid, *His Spirit ſhall not always ſtrive with Man, but the Candle of the wicked ſhall be put out:* O who can expreſs the Miſery of that Man! O ſad and deplorable is his Condition! Oh! It even cauſes my heart to relent, and my Spirit to bleed within me, to conſider the miſerable, ſad, and lamentable Eſtate of that Man, or Woman, whom God hath ceaſed ſtriving with, and whoſe Candle is put out; Oh ſurely utter Darkneſs will be their Portion, for ever Woe and Miſery; bitter and anguiſhing Pangs ſhall take hold of them, as of a Woman in Travail, when they ſhall be caſt into utter Darkneſs, never more to behold the Brightneſs of the Glory and Excellency of our God; And therefore, dear Brother, in the ſence of theſe Miſeries, which ſhall aſſuredly come upon all that will not Obey the Counſel of the *Lord*, do I entreat thee, for the *Lord's* ſake, and for thy poor Souls ſake, be obedient to his Counſel, and give Attention to his Call, for the Bowels of his Love yearns towards thee; and he ſtill waits to be gracious, Oh therefore embrace his Love! and wait for his Appearance, though he may

appear

appear as an Enemy, yet it is but to deſtroy ſin; and therefore fly not at his appearance, to hide thy ſelf as *Adam* did, when he had tranſgreſſed his Commandment, but wait for his coming, to deſtroy ſin in thee; for therefore muſt he firſt appear before thou can be a fit Veſſel for him to dwell in, and then thou wilt come to witneſs the ſaying of the Prophet fulfilled, which he propheſied of in the days of old, ſaying, *The Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Law-giver, the Lord is our King, and he will ſave us*; ſo (*Mark*) *he is firſt to be known as a Judge, and a Condemner of Sin in the Members*, and to take away that which makes a ſeparation betwixt him and thy ſoul, and then muſt he be known a Law-giver to give Laws, and eſtabliſh Laws, and Commandments in the hearts of his People; and here alſo comes another Scripture to be fulfilled, which God promiſed in the days of old, ſaying, *I will write my Law in their hearts, and put it in their inward parts, and I will be their God, and they ſhall be my People*; and then, as there is an obeying of theſe Laws, and a keeping of theſe Commandments which the *Lord* hath given unto us, and written in our inward parts, then do we witneſs him, to be our King who will ſave us, and bring ſalvation with him: And bleſſed be his Name for ever, who is not awanting this day, unto them that really fears and obey him; for the Fountain of his Mercy

is open, and the Sluces of the River of his pleaſure is drawn, and the Flood-gates is ſet wide open, and the Call is gone forth to all the World, and the Sound thereof to the ends of the Earth, Come you that will come, come he that is a thirſt, and he that hath no Money, come, buy Wine, and Milk, without Money, and without Price; Oh this is the Love of our God! Oh what manner of Love is this, wherewith he hath loved us, that he ſhould thus freely tender his Mercy unto us who hath not deſerved it at his hands! Oh ſurely it may well engage all who have felt of theſe his Mercies, and drank of this bleſſed Fountain, for ever to love him, and never to let him paſs out of our Remembrance; O that it might for ever be as a Seal upon all our Souls, and as a double engagement upon our Spirits, for ever to wait upon him, in the true Poverty of our Spirits, and in the true Nothingneſs of our ſelves before him, to bow at the Foot-ſtool of the Throne of his Grace, and there pour forth our Supplications day and night before him; beſeeching him, that he may never withdraw himſelf from us, but for ever let us feel of theſe his Mercies, and be Partakers of theſe his Bleſſings, that in the Eenjoyment of the ſame, our Souls may be daily obliged, and daily feel freſh occaſion of returning Glory, and everlaſting high Praiſes and Thankſgiving unto him, who over all is worthy, is worthy for ever.

And

And now my Brother, there is ſtill ſomething livingly ariſeth in my heart, to lay before thee; that I may be clear as to the diſcharging my Conſcience, in Obeying the will of the Lord; in faithfully doing that, which he commanded me, and that I may not do the work of the Lord deceitfully; he alſo having many times brought into my remembrance the charge, which he gave unto his Prophet; when he ſent him to forewarn the Children of *Iſrael*, in the days of old, ſaying, If thou forewarn them of their evil, in ſpeaking the things which I command thee, and they turn not from the evil of their ways, then ſhall they dye in their iniquities, and their blood ſhall be upon their own heads; but if not, they ſhall dye in their wickedneſs, but their blood I require at thy hands. Now theſe are the things, which I have to lay before thee.

1*ſt*. That thou let not thy mind out into the earth, in ſtriving to gather great riches; for many times pride doth attend that ſpirit; that as ſoon as people are grown rich and full as to the outward, then do they come to be exalted, and puffed up, and look for Honour, and Eſteem in the world, ſaying in their hearts, I am full, and entire, lacking nothing, when they are naked, blind, and miſerable, wanting all things. And therefore it is ſo; he that ſtrives to heap up Treaſures of this World, runs himſelf into a ſnare, and ſhall fall into a pit. Alſo ſaid Chriſt, how hard-

ly

ly ſhall they that are rich, enter into the Kingdom of Heaven: *Verily, I ſay unto you, it is eaſier for a Camel, to go thorow the eye of a needle, then for a rich man to enter into the KINGDOM of GOD*; and alſo he ſaith in another place, *Seek ye the Kingdom of Heaven firſt, and then all things needful ſhall be added unto you: And take no thought for to morrow, for to morrow ſhall take thought for the things of it ſelf*; and therefore I deſire thee, let not thy mind out after theſe things, but labour, to lay up Treaſures in Heaven, where the Thief cannot Steal, nor the Moth cannot Eat, nor the Ruſt cauſe to decay; and let the fear of the Lord poſſeſs thy heart, and then thou wilt indeed know that the Lord careth for his Children, and will not ſuffer any who puts their truſt in him, ever to be aſhamed, or to want any good things; for *he fills the Hungry with good, when the rich and the full he ſends empty away.*

Secondly, That thou let not out an evil ſpirit, to watch over any, with an evil eye to look out at the weakneſs of others, or when thou can ſpy a fault in another, to take an advantage againſt them, or to give thy ſelf any encouragement to give ſelf any liberty; but watch over that ſpirit, to keep it down, leſt while thou art thus watching over others, the Enemy get in, and ſo deprive thee of the bleſſing, which the true waiters do receive, and are made partakers of.

3dly, Take heed of Murmuring at the prosperity of any, or because, as thou may think, another may be accepted of above thee; but watch over that, to keep it down, for that is *Cain's* Nature, by which the world is guided, and whereby every one are striving to be greatest; and if that get power in thee, it will eat out thy life, and peace with God, and Union with his People: For God is no respecter of persons, but every one as they come truely to walk uprightly before him, are accepted of him; neither doth he require more of any, then he gives them power to do; for where much is given, much is required: so as there is but an improvement of the Talent, which God hath given to profit withal, all shall be well at the latter end; and therefore they that do well shall be accepted, but they that do evil, sin lyeth at their doors. And

Lastly, I desire thee, take heed of letting in an evil spirit of prejudice, against me, as to say in thy heart, as the Rebellious *Israel* did of old, Who made thee a Judge, and a ruler, over me; for that is that spirit, which would Fly the Cross, and escape the Judgments, which must come upon it, before thou can be accepted of the Lord, or be a fit Tabernacle for him to dwell in: for the Lord God Almighty, who knows the secrets of all hearts, knows and is my witness, this day, that I have no such design, as either to judge thee, or rule over thee; but to the contrary, I desire that

I may

I may be as a ſervant to thee, and help to bear thy burthens in any thing, that may tend to the welfare of thine immortal Soul; and therefore I deſire thee ſink down into Gods fear, and let his dread poſſeſs thy heart, and read it in the coolneſs of thy ſpirit, and in ſingleneſs of heart without partiality; then thou wilt come to ſee that I do not write to thee theſe things, by the invention of my own brain, or in my own will, but the Lord is pleaſed to make me an inſtrument in his hand, to ſtir thee up to remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth, and to ſeek after a Saviour, while he is to be found; and therefore do I once more beſeech thee, ſlight not the day of thy viſitation, nor put the day of the Lord afar off, nor truſt not in lying vanities, to ſay in thine heart, thou ſhalt have long life, and thou may take a little pleaſure in thy young years, and then thou will ſerve the Lord, in thy old age; and after ſuch, and ſuch a thing is accompliſhed, thou will leave off thy life of vanity, and then thou wilt ſerve the Lord; Oh! take heed of giving way to it, the more it overcomes thee, and the further thou goes on in that way, the harder will be thy return, and the danger is great, whether ever thou may return or not; therefore bend the twigg while it is young, and turn to the Lord before ſin be too much rooted in thee; for as an old Crooked Tree cannot be made ſtraight, and fit for the building, without much hew-

ing; even ſo, they that ſin is much rooted in, and have long perſiſted in wickedneſs, will hardly be redeemed from under the bondage of it; but however, not without many ſtripes; therefore, whilſt the Lord in his mercy is thus calling, and inviting with ſo many tender invitations of love, hearken unto him, for the day haſtens upon all, wherein it ſhall be ſaid, *He that is holy, let him be holy ſtill; and he that is filthy, let him be filthy ſtill:* yea, the day of the Lord will come, that ſhall burn as an oven, and all the proud, and all that do wickedly ſhall be as ſtubble before the fire, and ſhall be utterly conſumed; ſo that there ſhall be no place found for them: and ſo I deſire thee, deal juſtly, and truly with thy own ſoul, and learn a bridle to thy Tongue, that in all thy Spiritual, and Temporal Exerciſes, thy Converſation may be ordered aright, both before God and Man: For ſaith, James, *chap.* 1. *v.* 26. *If any Man ſeem to be Religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this Mans Religion is vain*; ſo it is not a profeſſion, that will ſerve any, though he may have the form of Godlineſs, yet if he want the power, God will not accept him, but will cut him off as an untimely Grape, from the Vine; for it is not leaves, but fruit that God looks for; therefore let us labour to bring forth fruit to the glory of the Lord, leſt when he comes to look for fruit, he find nothing but leaves, and ſo curſe

us as he did the fig tree, and like dead branches hew us down, and caſt us into the fire. So dear brother! I deſire thee, deal faithfully, and uprightly with all Men, with whom thou haſt to deal, and the Lord will bleſs, and proſper thee in all thy out-goings, and incomings; but if thou deal otherwiſe, thou need expect nothing but a Curſe from his Hand; Remember *Joſeph* of Old, who being a Juſt Man, and faithful to God, though he was a bondſlave, brought a bleſſing upon the whole Nation of the Heathens, that when all the Nations about him, was ready to periſh with famine, they did abound with plenty; and how much more may thou, being a Juſt man, and faithful to God, bring a bleſſing upon thy ſelf, and upon thy own houſe; and now here is the ſum of all theſe lines contained, *To love thy Neighbour, as thy ſelf and to do unto all men, as thou would they ſhould unto thee, to love mercy and to do juſtly, and walk HUMBLY with thy GOD*: Which if thou truly obſerve, and do, the Lord will plant thee as a Tree by the River ſide, and as a Lilly by the Water courſes, which neither toyl nor ſpin, yet feed and grow, and is beautifully Arrayed; for *Solomon* in all his Glory, was never Arrayed like one of theſe. And now I have cleared my Conſcience, in doing the meſſage of the Lord faithfully, according to the Ability which he hath given me; and if the *Lord* ſhould call me to viſit in general, as he did

to thee in particular, I desire that I may never be slack, but ever ready to answer his requirings, and do his will in all things; and I pray God set it home upon thee, that it may answer the end, for which it is sent, that I may cast my bread upon the waters, and after many days find it; and so unto that power, which is only able to save to the uttermost, all that will come unto it, do I commit thy Soul, with my own, and all that have any desires of righteousness in them; and I desire with all my Heart and Soul that we may for ever, be kept upright before the Lord, unto the end of our appointed time: That when he is pleased to put a period to our days, & when time unto us on this side the grave shall be no more, that we may give up our accounts with joy, and lay down our heads with peace, where none can make us afraid, and where our bread for ever may be sure, and our water never failing; and that with *Paul* we may conclude, and say, *We have fought a good fight, we have kept the faith, and finished our course; and henceforth, there is laid up for us a Crown of Righteousness*; and not for us only, but for all the Righteous; for the Crown of Glory he alone shall wear, that faithful to the end persevere. So this, with dear love to thee, is all at present, from thy ever loving brother,

North Frodingham in Houlderness in Yorkshire, 20*th*. of

Benjamin Padley.

The Copies of part of two Letters *to his Brother* John Padley *at* London.

The First Letter.

Dear Brother,

AFter our dear Love to thee, these may let thee know, That I received thine, which I suppose came by the hand of *John Yates*; but it was but two weeks since, yesterday, and it did rejoyce me greatly, to hear from thee; but more especially, to hear how it was with thee: for I can truly say, it is that which my Soul has and doth travel for, that we may be preserved in Uprightness before the *Lord* unto the end of our days; for blessed be his Name, his Tender Care has been over us, and his Compassion has been toward us in the days of our Minority, and in the time of our Youth; that though he was pleased to strip us of our Faithful Parents, and to leave us destitute of a Habitation, yet he never forsook us, but his provident hand has gone along with us, and taken care for us beyond what we could ever have expected; that with *Jacob* we may say, *The Lord hath fed us all our Life long*; and now it is the desire of my very Soul and Spirit, that we may walk worthy of those

thoſe Mercies and Bleſſings that the *Lord* hath beſtowed upon us, and that we may truly anſwer the end for which he hath thus viſited our Souls, in faithfully performing that Duty and Service, which the *LORD* hath called us unto, and requires of us, and herein will the *Lord* be glorified by us, and our Souls will receive the everlaſting Reward that will countervail all our Labour and Exerciſe; ſo into his hand do I commit our Souls, together with the Souls of all his Faithful Children every where, who is only able to preſerve and keep us unto the end of our days,

Northcave 20*th.* of 1*ſt.* Month, 1687.

Benjamin Padley.

The Second Letter.

Dear Brother,

MY Dear Love is unto thee, deſiring thee may enjoy thy Health, as thro' the *Lords* Mercy we do at preſent, and not only ſo, but inward Peace, Comfort, and Satisfaction; I do daily witneſs and feel in my own particular, and Truth doth grow and proſper amongſt us, which is Matter of great Joy and Comfort unto my Soul, and

it is the breathing Desire of my Spirit, that the *Lord* may preserve thee, with my own Soul, and the Souls of our Dear Friends and Brethren in the Truth, in Uprightness before him, unto the end of our days, *&c.*

Yorkshire, the 29*th.* of the 11*th.* Month, $168\frac{6}{7}$.

Benjamin Padley.

A Copy of a Letter *to his Brother*, John Padley, *at* London.

Beloved Brother,

THe Salutation of my Endeared Love doth reach unto thee in that inseparable unity and fellowship, which length of miles or distance of place cannot separate; as we dwell and abide in that blessed Truth which the Lord hath convinced us of; and not so only, but through his great mercy, and loving kindness hath brought us into obedience in a pretty large measure, to the requirings of it, and it is the very desire, and Travel of my Soul and Spirit, that we may be ever kept and preserved in the same obedience, to the end of our days, that as the Lord hath been pleased to give unto each particular of us a Tallent, to profit with all, that we now

may

may be truely and faithfully exerciſed, for the improvement of it to the glory of God, and to the benefit and advantage of our immortal Souls; that when the Lord is pleaſed to call us to an account, that we may appear before him with joy, and receive the anſwer of *Well done* into our boſomes; and this will be more cauſe of joy, and gladneſs unto us, than though we could gain the whole world and want this.

And now my Dear Brother, by this thee may underſtand, that I have received thine baring date the 26th. of this month, as alſo two, that my Wife received before I came home; the reading of which hath greatly gladed my heart, as alſo the account that I had of thee by our dear Friends, *John Whitehead*, *John Bouram*, and *Robert Lodge*, which all did give me a very good account of thee; and I can truely ſay, it did abundantly rejoyce me to hear of thy welfare, and proſperity every way, but more eſpecially of thy growth in the Truth, in which I pray God preſerve, and continue thee with my own Soul, and every one whom he hath called, that his work may proſper in us, and that we may ſtand as living witneſſes for him in our age and generation, amongſt thoſe whom he hath placed us; for bleſſed be the name of the Lord our God for ever, that hath not left us to our ſelves, nor ſuffered the enemy of our Souls to deſtroy us, neither hath he cut us off in

our Transgression, but hath spared us to be as Monuments of his Mercy; and not only so, but his blessings is largely extended towards us to this very day, that my Soul can say that he is become an open fountain, and a place of broad Rivers, unto them that truely fears him, and is given up to serve him; he is making them to drink of the waters of a full cup, to the glading of their Souls, for which my Soul is ingaged to return Glory, Honour, and Thanksgiving unto him, who is God over all blessed, for ever and ever, *Amen*.

Friends, here about, are generally well, onely *Christopher Hutton* lyeth a dying, if he be not dead; his Son *Emanuel* was taken away last winter, he dyed a very honest young Man. So desiring these may find thee in good health, as through the Lords Mercy we are at present, we remain with our dear Loves to thee, desiring to hear from thee, which is most at present, from,

Thy truly Loving Brother,

Northcave 29th. of 4th. Month, 1687.

Benjamin Padley.

A Letter *ſent unto his Brother,* John Padley.

Dearly Beloved Brother,

THe Salutation of my endeared Love is unto thee deſiring of the *Lord*, that he may preſerve thee, with my own Soul, in Faithfulneſs before him, in anſwering his Requiring, and doing thoſe things which he makes manifeſt to be our Duty, though it may be never ſo great a Croſs to our own Wills; for they that will be Chriſts Diſciples, they muſt come truly to Witneſs a dayly taking up of his Croſs, and a dayly dying unto thoſe things in which we have formerly delighted, and give up truly to follow the Lord in the true ſelf-denyal to be truly acted, ordered, and guided according to his Good Will and Pleaſure: And now, dear Brother, that which is upon me at this time, to lay before thee by way of caution, is, to deſire thee to be careful, leſt the Enemy beguile thee, by drawing thy Mind into ſome viſible thing or other; for it was my Loſs when I began to ſet up an Imployment for my ſelf, my Mind being haſty and deſirous to gain Wealth, and to accompliſh great things; I was altogether fruſtrated, for I did not only loſe in outward things, but I partly loſt my inward Condition, that

I did not enjoy the Preſence of the Lord in ſo large a Meaſure as I had formerly done, but bleſſed be the God of my Life forever, who has not left me to this day, but he has preſerved with his Righteous Judgments, that has been greatly mixt with Mercy; and now bleſſed be his Name for ever, whoſe Bleſſings and Mercies I do enjoy this day in my meaſure; and therefore unto him be the Praiſe and Glory, who alone is worthy over all; and ſo it is the deſire of my Soul, that we may both be preſerved faithful before the LORD, however it may go with us as to outward things, that we may firſt ſeek the Kingdom of Heaven, and the Righteouſneſs thereof: And I do believe the Lord will not ſuffer us to want thoſe things that is needful for us, but they that makes haſt to be rich, do run themſelves into a Snare, and is in danger to fall into a Pit; but it is my Hope and Confidence in the Lord, that as we ſtand in his Councel, and dwells in Humility, deſiring to be preſerved faithful in all our Undertakings, the Bleſſings of the Lord will be with us, and he will ſtill delight to ſhew Mercy unto our Souls, that we ſhall have freſh occaſion to bleſs and magnifie his great and powerful Name, who alone is worthy over all, for ever, *Amen.*

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Benjamin Padley.

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